

MSC0009A
Score

 *MSC presents*

THE AFFABLE ENIGMA

for SATB chorus a cappella (with divisi)

[2021]

text by

RUMI

music by

DANIAL SHEIBANI



Modern
Sound
Collective

ABOUT THE PIECE

The poem, Ode 2180, speaks about a newly passed soul who is on its way to heaven. Rumi wishes them well with his prayers. The grand-like sections of this piece set depictions of communication with celestial entities. The use of wind blowing conjures imagery of a mystical yet comforting forest that awaits newly passed souls. In the final return, whistles are used to symbolize the songs sung by birds in the mystical forest. The harmony in this piece is filled with melancholic chordal extensions which give the piece a flowing and floating impression. The piece turns the poem into a calling to Rumi. This composition also uses Fibonacci's golden ratio to structure its climax into the arc of the story.

Performance notes: The instance of graphic notation indicates blowing into the hole in your hand that is created by making a loose fist.

MSC Presents

MSC Presents, launched in 2023 by Toronto's Modern Sound Collective (artistic director: Kai Leung), is a progressive new publication label serving as a professional distribution platform for the music of MSC-affiliated composers. Offering an extremely competitive royalty rate to its artists, this initiative aims to create accessible opportunities for growth and collaboration for the many talented young choral composers in the GTA and beyond.

PRINTING

Choral scores distributed by *MSC Presents* are optimized for 8.5x11 printing.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Danial Sheibani (b. 2003) is an Iranian composer, pianist, vocalist, and conductor currently residing in Toronto. Always being surrounded by music throughout his life, he found his interest in classical piano and voice, but also explored the electric bass in rock bands during his time in Malaysia. Sheibani has received commissions from performers all over Toronto and the U.S., and has worked with ensembles such as the University

of Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Verona Quartet, the Standing Wave Ensemble, and more. His works have been performed in the Arts & Letters Club, The Annex, Lunenburg Academy of Music Performance, Pacific Lutheran University, and many more. Sheibani is the recipient of the SOCAN 2023 Young Composers Award and NYO Emerging Composer Mentorship Program along with the Arthur Plettner, and the Lloyd Bradshaw prize. He is now pursuing his third year of Bachelor of Music at the University of Toronto where he co-founded and conducts the Blank Canvas Sound Collective.

ORIGINAL TEXT (Farsi)

Jalāl ad-Din Muhammad Balkhī [Rūmī] (1207-1273)

Ode 2180

*Az in pasti be suye āsemān sho Ravānat shād bādā, khosh ravān sho
Ze shahre portab o larze bejasti Be shādi sākene dārolamān
Agar shod nakhshetan naghāsh rābāsh Vagar virān shod in tan jomle jān sho
Vagar ruy az ajal shod zaferāni Moghime lālezār o arghavān sho
Vagar darhāye rāhat bar to bastand Bia az rāhe bām o nardebān sho
Vagar tanhāshodi az yār o as-hāb Be yariye khodāh sāheb gherān sho
Vagar az āb o az nān door māndi, Chonān sho, ghute jānhāvo chenān sho*

**NOTE: the lyrics for this score have been engraved entirely in IPA.
See Appendix for an IPA guide.**

English Translation

*From these depths depart towards heaven;
may your soul be happy, journey joyfully.
You have escaped from the city full of fear and trembling;
happily become a resident of the Abode of Security
If the body's image has gone, await the image-maker; if the
body is utterly ruined, become all soul.
If your face has become saffron pale through death, become a
dweller among tulip beds and Judas trees.
If the doors of repose have been barred to you, come, depart
by way of the roof and the ladder.
If you are alone from Friends and companions, by the help of
God become a saheb-qeran. [lord of happy circumstance].
If you have been secluded from water and bread, like bread
become the food of the souls, and so become!*

MSC Presents:
 Dedicated to the loving memory of Behrad Fotouhi
THE AFFABLE ENIGMA
 for SATB chorus a cappella, with divisi

text by
RUMI

music by
DANIAL SHEIBANI

♩ = 60

SOPRANO
 R̄s̄ - mi
 p ff
 p (unis.)
 hmm

ALTO
 R̄s̄ - mi
 p ff
 hmm

TENOR
 R̄s̄ - mi
 p ff
 hmm

BASS
 R̄s̄ - mi
 p ff
 hmm
 blow into hand, not voiced, randomly / unsynchronized etc.
 whoooh

Piano
 (for rehearsal only)
 ♩ = 60

10 *mf legato*

S.
 1. æz in pæs - ti be s̄s̄ - ye - se - man
 2. æz in pæs - ti be s̄s̄ - ye a - se - man sho (1&2:) Ræ - va - næt

A.
 æz in pæs - ti be s̄s̄ - ye a - se - man sho Ræ Ræ - va - næt
 (1.) (1.)
 (2.) (2.)

T.
 1. æz in pæs - ti be s̄s̄ - ye se - man
 2. æz in pæs - ti be s̄s̄ - ye a - se - man sho Ræ Ræ - va - næt
 (1.) (1.)
 (2.) (2.)

B.
 æz in pæs - ti be s̄s̄ - ye a - se - man Ræ - va - næt
 (2.) (2.)

Pno.

15

18

S. *mp* *p sub.*
 shad ba da khosh ræ - van zæ shæh - re por-tæb o
 (2.) (2.)

A. *mp* (unis.) *p sub.*
 shad ba da khosh van sho zæ shæh - re tæb o
 (2.) (1.) (2.)

T. *mp* *p sub.*
 shad ba da khosh ræ - van zæ 1. shæh tæb o
 (2.) (2.) 2. shæh - re por-tæb

B. *mp* *p sub.*
 shad ba da khosh ræ - van sho zæ shæh - re tæb o
 (2.) (2.) (1.) (1.)

Pno.

21

poco rit. *a tempo*

S. *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*
 o be ne da - rol - æ - man

A. *mf* (unis.) *f* *ff*
 lær - zæ be-djæ-sti 1. be da - rol - æ man
 2. be sha - di sa - ke - ne da - rol - æ man

T. *mf* *f* *ff*
 lær - zæ be-djæ-sti be sa da - rol - æ man
 be sha - di sa ke - ne da - rol - æ - man

B. *mf* *f* *ff*
 be 2. sha - di sa - ke - ne (1&2) da - rol - æ - man

Pno.

poco rit. *a tempo*

26 27 *mp* 33

whistle
(one or two performers per note)

mp *whistle* *n* *mf*

S. *mp* *hmm* *n* *mf* tjo - nan

A. *mp* *hmm* *n* *mf* tjo - nan

T. *mp* *hmm* *n* *mf* tjo - nan

B. *mp* *hmm* *n* *mf* tjo - nan

Pno. 27 33

34 *molto rit. a tempo*

S. 1. sho *f* *ff*

2. sho ru mi o (&2.) ghv - te dzan - ha - vo tfe - nan sho Ra - mi *f* *ff*

A. sho ru mi o ghv te dzan - ha - vo tfe - nan sho Ra - v - mi *f* *ff*

T. sho ru - mi o ghv te dzan - ha - vo tfe - nan sho Ra - v - mi *f* *ff*

B. sho ghv - te dzan - ha - vo tfe - nan Ra - v - mi *f* *ff*

Pno. *molto rit. a tempo*

APPENDIX

IPA Guide

[ɑ] = All / [ɑ]ll

[æ] = Cat / C[æ]t

[ɛ] = Else / [ɛ]lse

[i] = These / Th[i]se

[o] = Okay / [o]kay

[ʊ] = Good / G[ʊ]d

[dʒ] = Gym / [dʒ]ym

[tʃ] = Chance / [tʃ]ance



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<u><i>The Affable Enigma</i></u>	SSSAAATTTBB a cappella	Danial Sheibani	Rūmī	3 min	2021	MSC0009
<u><i>Lying Awake, Waiting</i></u>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Sami Anguaya	Tom Robinson & Sami Anguaya	4 min	2022	MSC0001
<u><i>May This Place</i></u>	SSAATB a cappella	Nicholas Wanstall	Nicholas Wanstall	3 min	2018	MSC0006
<u><i>Remember</i></u>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Madox Terrell	Christina Rossetti	2.5 min	2020	MSC0010
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<u><i>Spring and Fall</i></u>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Elizabeth Legierski	Gerard Manley Hopkins	3 min	2018	MSC0007
<u><i>Too Still for Dreams</i></u>	SSAATTBB & piano	E.K.R. Hammell	A.E. Wetherald	4.5 min	2022	MSC0003
<u><i>Twilight</i></u>	SSAATTBB & piano	Francesca Hauser	Sara Teasdale	3.5 min	2022	MSC0004
<u><i>When David Heard</i></u>	SSAATTBB a cappella	Kai Leung	2 Samuel 18:33	3 min	2022	MSC0005

Treble / SA / SSA / SSAA

<u><i>Somewhere in Space</i></u>	SSAA & percussion trio	Emily Green	Edith Södergran	3.5 min	2023	MSC0002
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